NUMB. CXLIII.

The GUARDIAN.

Quis fuit, horrendos, primus qui protulit enses?
Quàm ferus, & verè ferreus ille fuit! Tibul.

Tuesday, August 25. 1713.

NOtwithstanding the Levity of the Pun, which is in the second Line of my Motto, the Subject I am going upon is of the most serious Consequence, and concerns no less than the Peace and Quiet, and (for ought I know) the very Life and Safety, of every inoffensive and well-disposed Inhabitant of this City. Frequent Complaints have been made to me by Men of Discretion and Sobriety, in most of the Coffee-houses from St. *James's* to *Jonathan's*, that there is sprung up of late a very numerous Race of young Fellows about the Town, who have the Confidence to walk the Streets, and come into all Publick Places in open Day light, with Swords of such an immoderate length, as strike Terror into a great many of her Majesty's good Subjects. Above half, half a dozen of this Fraternity in a Room, or a narrow Street, are as inconvenient as so many Turn-styles, because you can pass neither backward nor forward, till you have first put their Weapons aside. When *Jack Lizard* made his first Trip to Town from the University, he thought he could never bring up with him too much of the Gentleman; this I soon perceived in the first Visit he made me, when I remember, he came scraping in at the Door, incumbered with a Bar of Cold Iron so irksomly long, that it banged against his Calf, and jarred upon his Right Heel as he walked, and came rattling behind him as he ran down the Stairs; but his Sister *Annabella's* Raillery soon cured him of this awkward Air, by telling him that his Sword was only to be for going up Stairs, or walking up Hill, and that she shrewdly suspected, he had stolen it out of the College Kitchen.

But to return to the Publick Grievance of this City; it is very remarkable, that these *Bravo's of the Blade* began to appear upon the first Suspension of Arms; and that since the Conclusion of Peace the *Order* is very much increased, both as to the Number of the Men, and the Length of their Weapons. I am informed, that these Gentlemen, in order to their more glorious Bravery, which affects a Military Life, propound Peace, as the End of War, have resolved to look upon all their Friends and Fellow-Citizens as Enemies, and to erect themselves into a Society under the Name of the *Terrible Club*; and that they entertain hopes of getting the great Armory Hall in Fore-gate for their Club Room. Upon this Information it was my Business to enquire more particularly into the Cabals of these *Hectors*; and, by the Help of my Lion, I have got such Informations as will enable me to countermine their Designs, together with a Copy of some fundamental Articles drawn up by three of their Ring-leaders; the which, it seems, are to be augmented and assented to by the rest of the Gang on the first of *January* next (if not timely prevented) at a general Meeting in the Sword-Cutlers Hall. I shall at present (to let them see that they are not unobserved) content my self with publishing only the said Articles.

Articles

(Price Two Pence.)